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**OFFICE OF PETITIONS**

In re Application of	:	
Gregory A. Lazar, et al.	:	DECISION ON PETITIONS
Application No. 10/822,231	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) AND
Filed: March 26, 2004	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)
Attorney Docket No. A-71386-8	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6), filed November 12, 2004, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §§120 and 119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed applications set forth in the concurrently filed Application Data Sheet (ADS).

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(3) and 1.78(a)(6) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and 119(e) and 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(i) and 1.78(a)(5)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR §§ 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require additional where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition lacks item 1.

This application was filed on March 26, 2004, and was pending at the time of filing of the petition. While a reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional applications were not included in an ADS or in the first sentence of the specification following the title, reference nevertheless was made in the transmittal letter filed with the above-identified application.

The current procedure where a claim for priority under 37 CFR §1.78(a)(3) or §1.78(a)(6) is not included in the first sentence of the specification or in an ADS but does appear either in the oath or declaration or a transmittal letter filed with the application and the Office notes the claim for priority, no petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority. This is because the application would have been scheduled for publication on the basis of the information concerning the claim submitted elsewhere in the application within the time period set forth in 37 CFR §§1.78(a)(2)(ii) and 1.78(a)(5)(ii). However, on the other hand, if the USPTO does not note the claim for priority to the provisional application in the oath or declaration or transmittal letter submitted with the application, a petition will be required to accept a late claim for priority under §37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) or §1.78(a)(6).<sup>1</sup>

In this case, the Office noted the claim for priority of nonprovisional Application Nos. 10/672,280 and 10/379,392 and provisional Application Nos. 60/442,301 and 60/414,433 as shown by their inclusion on the filing receipt. Since the Office did not note the claim for priority to provisional applications 60/467,606 and 60/477,839 a petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is necessary to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

It is noted that the Application Data Sheet accompanying the petition does not recite the correct application number of the prior-filed applications. 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) requires that any nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending nonprovisional applications must contain or be amended to contain a reference to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) and indicating the relationship of the applications. Therefore, a corrected ADS must be filed before the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) can be granted.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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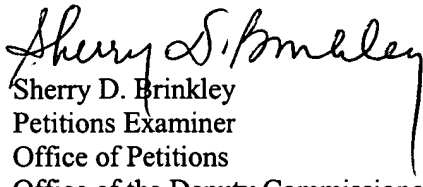
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<sup>1</sup> Note MPEP 201.11 (V), page 200-75 (Rev. 1. Feb. 2004 and 66 Federal Register 67087 at 67089 (Dec. 28, 2001), effective December 28, 2001.

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The centralized facsimile number is (703) 872-9306.

Any questions concerning this matter may be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3204.

  
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